

REMARKS

Applicants have been required to restrict the claims to one of the following inventions:

- I. Claims 1-51, drawn to an alkali silicate composite, classified in class 501, subclass 141.
- II. Claims 52-59, drawn to an alkali silicate slurry, classified in class 106, subclass 600+.
- III. Claims 60-66, drawn to an alkali metal silicate slurry containing a gel modifier (e.g., organic acid or organic base), classified in class 106, subclass 600+.
- IV. Claims 67-72, drawn to a method of making an inorganic silicate containing gel modifier, classified in class 264, subclass 65+.
- V. Claims 73-86, drawn to a glass, classified in class 501, subclass 11+.

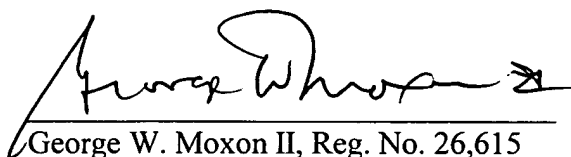
Applicants elect the claims of Group I (claims 1-51) with traverse.

The reasoning stated by the Examiner is somewhat speculative. The distinction between Group I (claims 1-51) and Group III (claims 60-66) is tenuous since the invention simply takes different form with Group I being the composition and Group III being the composition in a slurry form. Group II (claims 52-59) is the use of the slurry of Group I in making composites, while Group IV (claims 67-72) is directed to the use of the slurry of Group III which differs from the composition of Group I by the option of adding a gel modifier. All of these compositions require a reactive glass and that is what is claimed in Group V (claims 73-86). Thus, the search issues with regard to all the claims is not served by the restriction requirement.

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Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Moxon II", with a stylized flourish at the end. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

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